



Life
Cyclamen

Cyprus Capacity Building for Life
LIFE14 CAP/CY/000006

The LIFE Programme

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

During the current Programming Period the LIFE Programme has two sub-programmes:

The **Environment** sub-programme

- i. Environment and Resource Efficiency
- ii. Nature and Biodiversity
- iii. Environmental Governance and Information

The **Climate** Action sub-programme

- i. Climate Change Mitigation
- ii. Climate Change Adaptation
- iii. Climate Governance and Information

Your National Contact Point

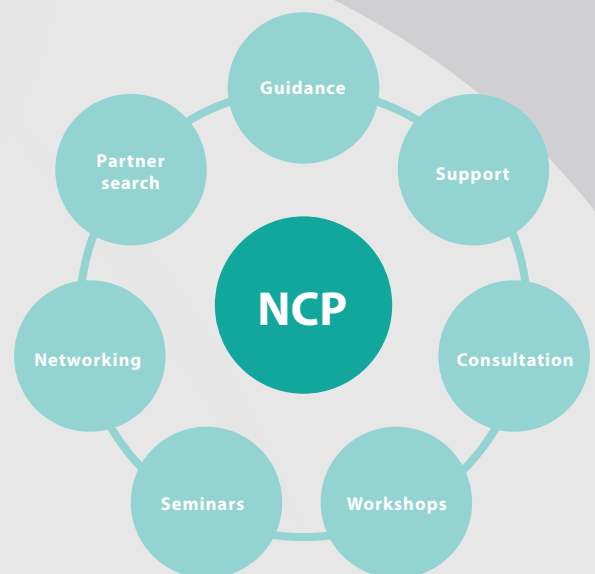
Your National Contact Point for the LIFE Programme is:

- Marilena Papastavrou for the Environment, and
- Chrystalla Papastavrou for Climate Action

In addition, the Department of Environment is now running a LIFE Project, called LIFE Cyclamen. Through this project the Department has created a team of experts who further empower your National Contact Point.

The whole team is ready to help you during the submission of your proposal, during your actual project with whatever is troubling you, but also help you after the end of your project. In other words we are here to help you succeed!

The Services we offer



NCP: National Contact Point

The LIFE Cyclamen Team



Our team is now complete with the addition of the Communication Expert.

Maria Hadjidaniel

Maria Hadjidaniel holds a MA in Marketing and a BA in Public Relations. She has extensive Marketing experience working from the position of Marketing Manager in the Automotive, Business Consulting Services and Retail sectors. As a passionate environment lover, Maria came to the realisation during her time at the University of Nottingham that her true calling was to work in the Environment industry from the marketing point of view. And finally the time has come.

LIFE Programme Info Days 2018

The past few months we organised a series of Info Days in Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca. The purpose of the events was to inform potential beneficiaries of the LIFE Programme 2018 Call and provide them with any support they may need.

Apart from the Info Days that were open to the general public we also organised, after special demand, Info Days for: The Cyprus Institute, the Employers and Industrialists Federation in Nicosia the University of Nicosia, the Federation of Environmental Organisations of Cyprus and the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber.

Info Day participants found these gatherings very useful and insightful, as they had the opportunity to ask questions about the LIFE Programme from both the National Contact Point and from the guest speakers.



How-to-write workshop and LIFE Programme 26 years Celebration

We had a full house at the How-to-write workshop organized in Nicosia on Wednesday May 16th 2018. See below some highlights from the day.

Mr Solon Mias (EASME) gave us the basic guidelines for writing a successful proposal, such as:

- Start working early!!!
- Describe & quantify the problem clearly
- Quantify the expected benefits of your project
- Explain how the results will be sustainable
- Explain the technical process of your solution



Mr Elias Demian (NEEMO) shared with us lessons learnt from past LIFE Projects regarding project management. Some points raised were:

- It's important to know who does what in a project
- Avoid complex structures. Simple is functional
- Have somebody independent proof-read your proposal for clarity of the actions
- Allocate time realistically and plan for possible delays

Dr Konstantinos Moustakas shared with us the LIFE Project success stories of the Unit of Environmental Science & Technology, National Technical University of Athens. He also gave us some practical tips and suggestions for writing a winning proposal.

Participants also had the opportunity to see step by step how they need to fill in their proposal on the electronic platform and what pitfalls to avoid.

Press Conference – LIFE Programme and SmartPV

The Department of Environment and the LIFE Cyclamen Project team organised a press event on the 29th of March 2018 at the University of Cyprus. The purpose of the event was to inform journalists about the LIFE Programme – the EU's most important financial instrument for environment and climate change.

In addition to providing general information about the Programme, the team also presented a LIFE project which

was successfully funded and completed, namely SmartPV. This project aimed at reducing the cost of electricity for consumers, and reducing the need for electricity generation through 'smart' systems.

In the framework of this project, photovoltaic and smart metres were applied, on a pilot basis, in homes in various regions of Cyprus. In addition, all home owners were trained with the purpose of improving their energy profile.



The result was that they were able to reduce their electricity consumption and, of course, reduce the electricity bill

they are required to pay every two months. The benefit to the environment is immediate, since less consumption means a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

All know-how developed through the Smart-PV project can now be used to implement future smart grids that will be available to all consumers. The coordinator of this project was the Photovoltaic Technology Laboratory of the University of Cyprus.

Did you know...?

The European Commission proposes to increase funding to support the environment and climate action

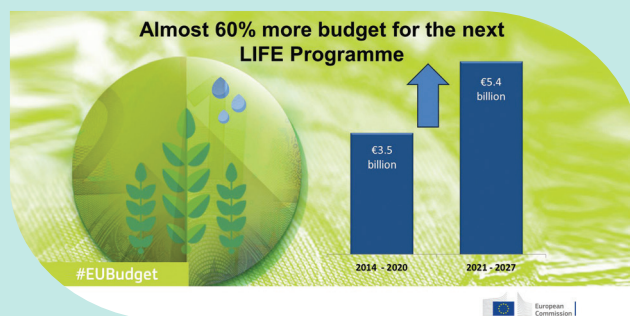
For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing to increase funding by almost 60% for the LIFE Programme.

The LIFE Programme is among the EU funding programmes for which the Commission is proposing the largest proportional increase, with a budget of €1.95 billion for the above mentioned period.

The main features of the new LIFE Programme are:

- An increased focus on clean energy
- An increased focus on nature and biodiversity
- Continued support of the circular economy and climate change mitigation

- A simple and flexible approach to facilitate a broader geographical access and to allow for new and critical priorities to be addressed as they emerge.



LIFE Programme is simplifying the Submission and Selection Procedure

LIFE has decided to simplify its Submission and Selection Procedure methodology. It is, therefore, now testing a two-stage approach, under the Environment Sub-Programme. This gives applicants the opportunity to submit a much shorter proposal during the first stage in

the form of a concept note (around 10 pages in length), thus saving time and reducing initial costs. In the two-stage approach, only applicants with proposals that have a high chance of being selected will be required to submit a full proposal.

LIFE UrbanProof organised a Consortium Meeting

LIFE UrbanProof organised a consortium meeting on Monday April 30th 2018, at the Department of Environment in Cyprus. The overall aim of the UrbanProof project is to increase the resilience of municipalities to climate change, equipping them with a powerful tool for supporting better informed decision making on climate change adaptation planning.

LIFE UrbanProof is trying to bridge the gap between scientific and local understanding of climate change, while at the same time involving the public in the adaptation planning of municipalities.

The meeting included a visit at the Lakatamia and Strovolos' small scale infrastructure locations.



Participation in other events

The LIFE Cyclamen team at the Green Dot festival 2018

The LIFE Cyclamen team participated once again at the Green Dot Festival, which took place on Saturday May 12th 2018 at the Acropolis Park in Nicosia.

Visitors to our stand were able to learn what the LIFE Programme is all about, who can benefit from it, as well as find out about different running LIFE Projects in Cyprus, which are assisting our country in reaching its environmental goals. We also had the opportunity of assisting visitors who were considering applying for a LIFE Project.

Green Week 2018

We were excited to participate in the EU Green Week 2018, where all EU countries come together to share experiences that will make our future greener. This year's Green Week was held between the 21st and 25th of May 2018 and it was dedicated to "Green cities for a greener future".

During the Green Week we learnt that more than 75% of the EU population live in cities and consume 80% of the energy produced. We have more than 430.000 premature deaths per year due to air pollution. Climate change is no longer something we read about, but it is something that touches us all. It is in fact something we need to address NOW!

It is clear that sustainable urban planning is a hot topic that we need to deal with at once. But as change can only be achieved with the participation of citizens it is crucial that city authorities engage with citizens for the purpose of designing and achieving the sustainable development of cities. They need to ask people for their opinion and engage in conversation with them. It's important to hear people's problems and address them. The sustainable city can only be achieved if co-created with citizens, as this is the only way we can achieve behavioural change.

All in all, the conclusion of the week was that sustainable city development is no longer an option, but a must. The good news is that it can be achieved and key elements in this are the following: Transparency on behalf of local authorities and governments; People Engagement; and Learning from the experience of other countries.

CONTACT DETAILS

Marilena PAPASTAVROU

Environmental Officer - National Contact Point
for Environment
Email: mpapastavrou@environment.moa.gov.cy
Tel: +357 22 408 926

Maria ZOMENI

Environmental Officer - Nature and Biodiversity Expert
Email: mzomeni@environment.moa.gov.cy
Tel: +357 22 408 951

Olympia NISIFOROU

Environmental Officer - Environment and
Resource Efficiency Expert
Email: onisiforou@environment.moa.gov.cy
Tel: +357 22 408 919

Chrystalla PAPASTAVROU

Environmental Officer - National Contact Point
for Climate Change
Email: cpapastavrou@environment.moa.gov.cy
Tel: +357 22 408 962

Panos KAKONITIS

Environmental Officer - Climate Change Expert
Email: pkakonitis@environment.moa.gov.cy
Tel: +357 22 408 963

Maria HADJIDANIEL

Environmental Office - Communication Expert
Email: mhadjidaniel@environment.moa.gov.cy
Tel: +357 22 408 913

Department of Environment, 1498 Nicosia



LIFE National Contact Point in Cyprus
Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture,
Rural Development and Environment
<http://www.moa.gov.cy/environment>



With the contribution of the LIFE financial
instrument of the European Community,
through a Capacity Building Grant,
100% of Total Eligible Budget €951.828



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